

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 15

AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY  
18 January 1982

## ***Washington Roundup***

### ***Leak Detection***

"The electricians" is the collective nom de guerre being applied to the Reagan Administration by career Defense Dept. and other Executive Branch officials. That title evolved last week in the wake of coerced polygraph tests for members of the Defense Resources Board in an Administration effort to stem leaks of politically sensitive information on grounds of national security. Deputy Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci, a former CIA official, sent a memorandum to board members stating that he and his staff had volunteered to take lie detector tests and asking that members also volunteer for the 90-min. polygraph to prove they are not guilty of leaks. "It is tantamount to an order and like asking someone to volunteer for root canal work," one board member complained. Another said unless he "volunteered" he and the others not taking the test would be cut off from access to material and automatically become suspect.

Carlucci's memorandum came after a board meeting where it was revealed that the Reagan defense budget through Fiscal 1988 contains a \$750-billion shortage in providing adequate funding to improve U. S. military capability to enable implementation of national policy. This shortage is in spite of a \$1.3-trillion five-year defense plan by the Administration.

A board member explained that there is some very sensitive information that may have leaked from the board meeting—charts on U. S. vulnerability to certain Soviet actions and weapons systems. But he added that forcing polygraph tests does not get at the problem because hundreds of people had access to the data—aides, secretaries and staff members of those on the board. "It only stirs up resentment and rebellion; it's like Nixon all over again," only polygraphs instead of phone taps, he said. The President last week also ordered a crackdown on leaks, saying that all legal means would be used to investigate them, and a new Defense Dept. directive requires prior approval for all contacts with the media.